(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a strong opposition to this move of Government for Chain-smoking Government officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Government has issued orders on May 7, 1990 prohibiting smoking in a few selected places, namely, hospitals, dispensaries and other health care establishments, educational institutions, conference rooms, domestic air-flights, airconditioned chair cars, airconditioned sleeper coaches in trains, suburban trains and airconditioned buses The ban comes into effect after 30 days of the issue of the order.

(c) No, Sir.

Inadequate Staff in the KVS Regional Office at Silchar

777. KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Regional Office of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Silchar is not properly staffed;

(b) if so, what are the details of the posts sanctioned in the Office;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the posts of Superintendent, Audit and Accounts Officer and Administrative Officer are lying vacant in the office for the last many years; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken/proposed to be taken by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir Details indicating the position of the sanctioned posts and those lying vacant at Regional Office, Silchar, is presented in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(d) Action to fill up these posts has already been initiated.

Statement

Staff Position in the Regional Office Silchar

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Sanctioned	Date from which vacant
1.	Assistant Commissioner	1	
2.	Administrative Officer	1	1—December 1986
3.	Education Officer	3	
4.	Accounts-cum-Inspecting Officer	1	1—March, 1989
5.	Superintendent of Accounts	1	1- February 1989
6.	Superintendent (Admn.)	1	1—April. 1987
7.	Senior Librarian	1	
8.	Assistant	2 (Ad-hoc)	

1	2	3
9.	Audit Assistant	6
10.	Steno Grade-III	4
11.	UDC	3
12.	Jeep Driver	1
13.	LDC	6
14.	Daftary	1
15.	Group 'D' including Sweeper	5

Encounters with Pakistan on J & K Border

778. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether some Indian and Pak soldiers were killed recently in an exchange of heavy fire in the Poonch sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what was the number of times when Indian and Pak troops exchanged fire in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir since the beginning of 1990 stating the number of casualties, if any, on both the sides;

(d) what is the number of Pakistani intruders apprehended in the Indian territory;

(e) whether Government have lodged any protest with the Pakistan Government; and

(f) what steps have been taken by Government to strengthen the Indian positions along Jammu and Kashmir border to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c) There have been some casualties during the recent exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani soldiers in Poonch Sector. There have also been sporadic incidents of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops across the Line of Control. It will not be desirable to disclose the details.

(d) Nine Pak infiltrators have been apprehended along the borders by the security forces since January, 1990.

(e) In accordance with the spirit of the Simla Agreement, issues relating to border incidents including firing incidents, are normally sought to be resolved bilaterally through flag meetings between local commanders of the two sides and these are held whenever the need arises. Firing incidents are not normally taken up through diplomatic channels.

(f) A very colse watch is kept on all developments and our troops are fully equipped to meet any eventuality.

Security threat from naval base set up by Sri Lanka at Kachchathiva Island

779. SHR S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious security threat from the naval base to be set up by Sri Lanka in Kachchathiva island ceded by India to Sri Lanka in 1974;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to counter the threat; and

(c) whether Government propose to undertake the Sedhu Samudra Project as a defence project and complete it by the earliest to obviate circuitous sea routes for effective patrolling of southern shores?